

reaching this incredible milestone, and wishing her even more health and happiness in the years to come.

IN RECOGNITION OF BARRY
CONWAY'S RETIREMENT

HON. FRANK C. GUINTA

OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 28, 2012

Mr. GUINTA. Mr. Speaker, on September 30, 2012 Barry Conway will retire as Commandant of the New Hampshire State Veterans Home after forty years of faithful service in health care administration. Mr. Conway began his career as a Corpsman with the United States Air Force serving from 1960–1964. Soon after leaving the Air Force, he pursued his post secondary education in Rhode Island, before beginning his work in health care administration working in long-term care facilities, ambulatory care centers and hospitals.

For the last twenty-three years, Mr. Conway has worked at the New Hampshire State Veterans Home, providing quality care and services to our state's aging and disabled veterans. Under his leadership the Veterans Home has become a sought after long-term care facility, focusing on the special needs of our veterans. The care provided to our veterans not only meets their specific challenges and needs, but honors both them and their service to our country.

Mr. Conway has also shared his expertise and experience in caring for the elderly, frail, and disabled veterans as a member of many associations including the National Association of State Veterans Homes, American College of Health Care Administrators, New Hampshire Health Care Association, and the American Legion. He has served New Hampshire and its residents well, especially our veterans community, and he will be sorely missed when he leaves the Veterans Home.

I congratulate Barry Conway on his well earned retirement and thank him for his outstanding support of our veterans here in New Hampshire. I wish both Barry and his wife Barbara continued success in their life together.

TRIBUTE TO SARAH DEMAREE

HON. GREG WALDEN

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 28, 2012

Mr. WALDEN. Mr. Speaker, now that we have returned to our districts before the election, I'd like to highlight a valuable staff member of mine who recently left my office. I rise today to pay tribute and say thanks to Sarah Demaree, a member of my staff who dedicated herself to the people of Oregon's Second Congressional District for nearly three years in my Washington, DC, Office.

Sarah is a talented young woman who filled many different roles in my office, and was up to the challenge for each one. First joining the office as an intern after graduating from Colgate University, Sarah quickly stepped into the role of staff assistant and has continued to take on more responsibility as a legislative

correspondent and legislative assistant handling education issues.

Whatever she was asked to do—even if she wasn't asked directly to do it—Sarah was up to the challenge. When she was staff assistant, she went above and beyond to make all Oregonians who visited feel welcome. Each and every one came a long way, and she gave them some of the best Capitol tours on the Hill. As legislative correspondent, she helped me keep in close touch with all corners of the Second District.

Sarah adeptly handled complex policy issues as my education advisor. In that role, Sarah kept in close touch with teachers throughout Oregon and maintained a close relationship to teacher groups and education administrators.

Sarah also organized several visits from a group of special men and women, World War II veterans from Oregon as part of Honor Flight of Oregon and Honor Flight of Eastern Oregon. Each time a group travelled to Washington, Sarah would plan their visits for weeks to make sure each and every one of these heroes had a perfect trip to the nation's capital. She was known to rise early on Saturday mornings to go to the World War II Memorial to greet these veterans, and present them with flags flown over the Capitol. The organizers of these visits, Gail Yakopatz and Dick Tobiason, always singled out Sarah for her help, praising her dedication and Tenacity.

While not a native Oregonian, Sarah has deep ties to the state, whether through her annual family camping trip to Howard Prairie Lake outside of Ashland or her extended family in Portland. These deep connections to the state allowed her to connect with Oregonians from around the Second District.

While Sarah has dedicated herself to public service here in our nation's capital, she has headed back to her native Washington State to enter a new and exciting phase of her life. Sarah has given up the "maroon and white" of her alma mater, Colgate University, for the "purple and gold" of her home state University of Washington where she began law school this fall.

I'm sure that law school has been keeping Sarah plenty busy, but with her industrious work ethic, and desire to make the world a better place, I can imagine Sarah will soon be putting her energy into public service in Washington State. She's also closer to her mom and dad, Walt and Liz, and to her beloved Seattle Seahawks. I speak for all members of Team Walden when I say Sarah's dedication and talent have been missed, but we wish her best of luck as she begins her new life in "the other" Washington.

I ask my colleagues to join me in wishing Sarah the best of luck as she returns West and pursues new personal and professional endeavors. Sarah, thanks for exemplary service to the Congress and citizens of Oregon.

TRIBUTE TO EAGLE SCOUT
WILLIAM M. HITTLE IV

HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 28, 2012

Mr. LATHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate William M. Hittle

IV of Nora Springs, Iowa for achieving the rank of Eagle Scout.

The Eagle Scout rank is the highest advancement rank in scouting. Only about 5 percent of Boy Scouts earn the Eagle Scout Award. The award is a performance-based achievement with high standards that have been well-maintained over the past century.

To earn the Eagle Scout rank, a Boy Scout is obligated to pass specific tests that are organized by requirements and merit badges, as well as completing an Eagle Project to benefit the community. The work ethic William has shown in his Eagle Project and every other project leading up to his Eagle Scout rank speaks volumes of his commitment to serving a cause greater than himself and assisting his community.

Mr. Speaker, the example set by this young man and his supportive family demonstrates the rewards of hard work, dedication and perseverance. I am honored to represent William and his family in the United States Congress. I know that all of my colleagues in the House will join me in congratulating him on obtaining the Eagle Scout ranking, and I wish him continued success in his future education and career.

IN RECOGNITION OF FRIENDS OF
LIGHT RAIL AND TRANSIT

HON. DORIS O. MATSUI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 28, 2012

Ms. MATSUI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Friends of Light Rail and Transit as they celebrate their 25th anniversary. As supporters and members of this fine organization gather together to celebrate a quarter century of steadfast public transit advocacy, I ask all my colleagues to join me in recognizing them for their efforts to advocate for the improvement and expansion of bus and light rail service in Sacramento.

For the past 25 years, Friends of Light Rail and Transit has been a staunch supporter of public transportation in the Sacramento area. Since the inception of light rail in 1987, they have been instrumental in the growth and promotion of the public transportation system in the Sacramento region. With Friends of Light Rail and Transit's support, the Sacramento Regional Transit District has continued to expand light rail service in Sacramento and most recently add the new Green Line, which will eventually link Natomas and the Sacramento Airport to the rest of the light rail system. Friends of Light Rail and Transit has also fought for improved bus service for every neighborhood in the region.

Friends of Light Rail and Transit have hosted, sponsored and participated in countless community workshops for transit oriented planning projects across the region. They have pushed decision makers and policymakers to ensure public transit is at the forefront of their minds. Headed by Executive Director Seann Rooney and Board President Dain Domich, this great organization has been prominent in voicing their support for improved air quality, infill development, and congestion relief; consistently and tirelessly pushing for a better tomorrow.

Mr. Speaker, as members and supporters of Friends of Light Rail and Transit gather to celebrate this milestone, and their many achievements over the last 25 years, I ask my colleagues to join me in saluting these fine individuals for their excellent work and commitment to our community.

A TRIBUTE TO HONOR THE LIFE
OF ROBERT "BAT" BATINOVICH

HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 28, 2012

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Robert "Bat" Batinovich, a special friend and extraordinary citizen who passed on September 11, 2012, on the Big Island of Hawaii surrounded by his loved ones. He is survived by his wife Garnet, son Andy (Debbie), daughter Angela, and grandchildren Kyle and Kelly Cotchett, Alexa Batinovich and Avery Bysouth, brother Ken (Annette), many wonderful cousins and scores of friends.

Robert Batinovich was born July 13, 1936, in Long Beach, California, to Matthew and Margaret Batinovich. He attended St. Anthony's High School and worked as a tuna fisherman in South America.

A resident of Hillsborough and a highly trusted and respected businessman, "Bat" was the founder of Glenborough Corporation based in San Mateo, California, and Chairman of the Board of Directors of Glenborough Realty Trust Inc. a Real Estate Investment Trust through his retirement. He spent seven years as an executive with Norris Industries, after which most of his business life was devoted to entrepreneurial and venture capital activities primarily through the start-up or acquisition, operation, and ultimate sale, of a variety of businesses.

Between 1976–1980, "Bat" served on the California Public Utilities Commission, and for the last two years of his service, he was President. He served on the California State Board of Transportation in 1977, and the Health Facilities Authority in 1981. He also served on the Board of Farr Company and the Advisory Board of Greater Bay Bank Corp., Palo Alto, California. His love of charities led him to support Community Gatepath, Georgetown University, The Samaritan House and Catholic Charities. He loved people and lived a full life, contributing significantly as a public servant and a businessman. He always led by example and integrity. He was universally respected for his compassion, his caring, his drive, and his generosity, and it was a privilege to call him my friend.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in extending our deepest condolences to "Bat's" beloved wife, Garnet, and their entire family. "Bat" was a strong leader, businessman, philanthropist and public servant who brought much joy to the lives he touched, strengthened his community and bettered the Nation he loved so much. His life and his contributions are worthy of this tribute we pay to him today.

IN RECOGNITION OF DR. MARC
LEVENSON'S RETIREMENT

HON. FRANK C. GUINTA

OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 28, 2012

Mr. GUINTA. Mr. Speaker, on September 30, 2012 Dr. Marc Levenson will retire from the VA Medical Center after 24 years of faithful service to our State's veterans. Dr. Levenson began his medical career practicing Internal Medicine at the University of North Carolina Medical Center in Chapel Hill and then went on to serve as Vice President and Senior Physician at Jackson River Internists in Virginia.

After his time in private practice, he joined the VA Health Care System in Pennsylvania before making a permanent place in the New England VA Health Care System. Dr. Levenson began his career in Manchester as the Chief of Staff and after 12 years in this position was promoted to Director of the Manchester VA Medical Center in 2000. Since that time he has led the VAMC with dedication and integrity, bringing the best care and services possible to our State's veterans.

He has helped to improve and initiate several clinics including Ophthalmology, Audiology, Dermatology and Podiatry Care. His efforts also focused on implementing Primary Care Mental Health Integration and expanding the Home Based Primary Care Program to the Community Based Outpatient Clinics throughout the State. He has also stepped in to help out at other Medical Centers in White River Junction, Vermont and Bedford, Massachusetts when these facilities were transitioning between directors.

Dr. Levenson has been a great leader for our veterans here in New Hampshire and provided all of our veterans with the services and care they need when transitioning back from active duty to civilian life, and into their later years. His work has been outstanding and is greatly appreciated. I congratulate Dr. Levenson on his well earned retirement and thank him for his outstanding support of our veterans in New Hampshire and New England.

RECOGNIZING TAIWAN'S 101ST
NATIONAL DAY

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 28, 2012

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge Taiwan's 101st National Day on October 10, 2012. This event marks the anniversary of the 1911 uprising that led to the establishment of the Republic of China.

Under President Ma Ying-jeou's leadership, Taiwan has made great strides in improving relations with mainland China, which has contributed to reduced tensions in the region overall. Furthermore, through the Economic Cooperation Framework Agreement, millions of citizens in both nations have benefited. China and Taiwan are continuing to pursue productive and peaceful negotiations to ensure a better future for their citizens, and cross-

strait relations are better now than they have ever been.

The United States should support and assist Taiwan in building on its recent successes and playing a greater role in international organizations, such as the World Health Assembly. Taiwan is also on the road to gaining membership in the International Civil Aviation Organization. This important progress should be recognized and encouraged.

Mr. Speaker, Taiwan is an important ally to the United States, an outpost of democracy and freedom, and plays a critical economic role in the region. Millions of Americans buy Taiwanese products, and Taiwan is an export destination for a wide range of American products, from agriculture to raw materials to technology. The Taiwanese people are committed to hard work and democratic values, as well as productive and peaceful international relations. I offer my sincere congratulations on their 101st National Day, and look forward to celebrating Taiwan's future successes.

HONORING TEAM ACADEMY

HON. TIMOTHY J. WALZ

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 28, 2012

Mr. WALZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the accomplishments of TEAM Academy in Waseca, Minnesota.

On September 7th, TEAM Academy was named one of two schools from the First District of Minnesota to be designated as a 2012 National Blue Ribbon School.

This award recognizes exemplary schools like TEAM Academy where students have made significant progress. Schools that receive this award truly exemplify the belief that every child has promise and must receive a high quality education.

As a teacher on leave from Mankato West, I know that achieving success for all students takes a commitment from the entire school, from the principal to the counselors to the teachers. Their dedication every day toward success and achieving a higher goal motivates students to do their best.

This is exactly what TEAM Academy has done for its students. Under the leadership of Director Jill Ladwig, the school practices individualized learning in small groups, and focuses on reading, mathematics and exposure to art, Spanish, physical education and music. Every day, students walk into an environment where they are encouraged to reach their full potential, become a productive member of society, and understand the importance of post-secondary education.

This award recognizes what the Waseca community already knows—TEAM Academy is a place where every student, no matter their background or ability, can fulfill their potential.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in honoring TEAM Academy for its dedication to the students of Waseca.